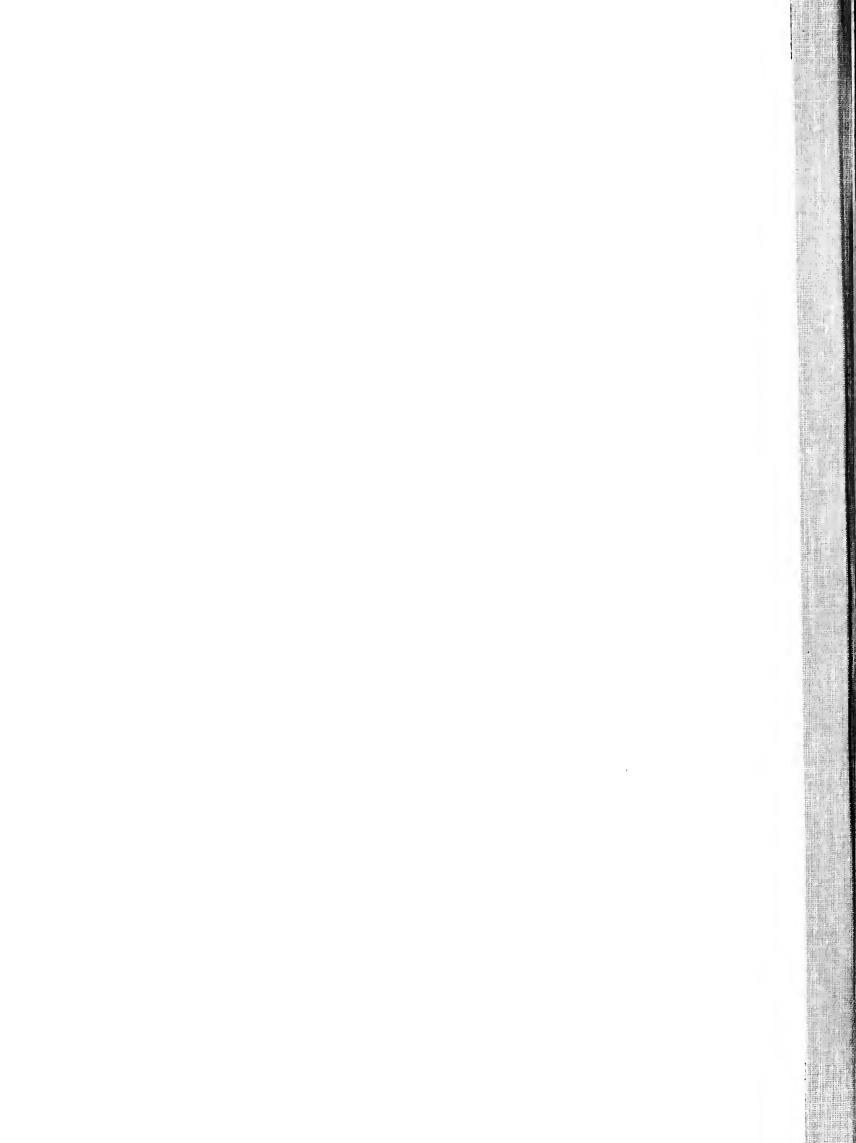
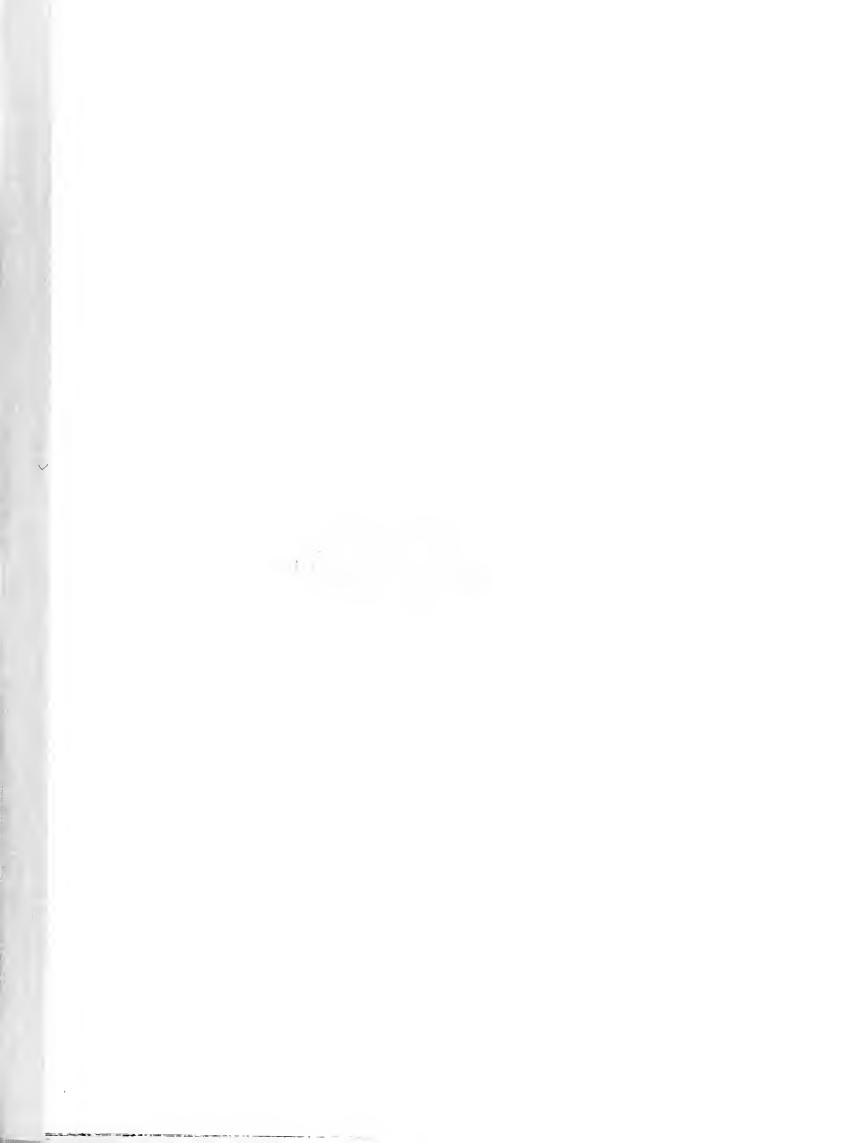
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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
CIRCULAR 1081

THE ILLINOIS BEEF PERFORMANCE TESTING PROGRAM

performance, carcass, pedigree and eyeball evaluations

G. E. RICKETTS

B. A. WEICHENTHAL

H. G. RUSSELL



THE ILLINOIS BEEF PERFORMANCE TESTING PROGRAM

THIS PROGRAM is conducted jointly by county extension advisers, area livestock advisers, and extension livestock specialists in the Department of Animal Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. If you are interested in finding out more about this program, contact a member of any of these groups.

Almost all of the purebred beef registry associations have a performance testing program. Purebred breeders are urged to participate in their association's program. Cooperative Extension Service personnel will be happy to help obtain records for such programs.

Facilities are available at Urbana to process all records from commercial as well as purebred herds. A modest fee is charged for this service. There is a real advantage in having performance records as part of your official records at the breed association office.

If the records are processed at Urbana, we will furnish you with an extra copy, on request, that you can forward to your breed association office. If you prefer, you may have all of the processing done at your breed association office. Where you have your records processed will in no way affect the cooperation you will receive from Extension Service personnel.

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This circular was prepared by G. E. Ricketts, Associate Professor, B. A. Weichenthal, Associate Professor, and H. G. Russell, Professor of Animal Science Extension.

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Urbana, Illinois

July, 1973

THE VALUE OF PRODUCTION RECORDS AND PERFORMANCE TESTING

Herd improvement should be one of the major objectives of all commercial and purebred cattlemen. Such factors as increasing the weaning and yearling weights and improving the quality of the calves produced should be of major concern. A sound breeding, management, and selection program is needed for any improvement, and this is where accurate records come into play.

Properly kept production records can be very useful to:

- Help measure herd productivity.
- Evaluate bull performance.
- Identify high-producing cows.
- Help cull out low-producing cows.
- Indicate differences in the gaining ability of calves.
- Help select herd replacements.
- Provide permanent, yearly records.
- Supplement what can be seen with the naked eye and retained in the memory.

The performance of individual cows varies greatly in most herds. The table at the bottom of this column shows the average, 205-day adjusted weights (steer equivalent) of the calves from the top and bottom 20 cows in four herds enrolled in the Illinois Beef Performance Testing Program.

Considerable variation can also exist in the performance of calves from different sires used within the same herd. The first table in column two shows actual records from four Illinois herds enrolled in the Performance Testing Program, indicating these sire differences. Multiplying the difference in sire averages by the current feeder-calf price for choice calves will provide the figure for the increased value of calves from the bull with the high sire average.

The heritability of a particular trait indicates how rapidly improvement can be made through selection

Variation in Beef Cow Performance in Four Illinois Herds Enrolled in the Beef Performance Testing Program

	Herd averages (205-dav	Average adjustee	205-day d weight	
No. of cows	adjusted weights)	Top 20 cows	Bottom 20 cows	Difference
		por	ınds	
116	528ª	599	447	152
297	485^{a}	574	380	194
117	430^{a}	494	365	129
81	$384^{\rm b}$	443	330	113

a Creep feed. b No creep feed.

for that trait. Heritability estimates of less the 20 percent are usually considered low; those from 20 to 40 percent, medium; and those above 40 percent, high.

Herd Sire Production Differences in Four Illinois Herds Enrolled in the Beef Performance Testing Program

		Herd		e 205-day of calves	adjusted by sire
Herd	No. of bulls used	averages (205-day adjusted weights)	Low sire	High sire	Dif- ference per calf
			poi	ınds	
1	4	405	373	413	40
2	4	442	417	477	60
3	7	495	464	528	64
4	4	420	387	467	80

Heritability Estimates (Percentages) for Beef Cattle

Calving interval	10	Conformation (grade)	
Weaning weight	30	Weaning	25
Gain efficiency	40	Slaughter	40
Maternal ability	40		
Feedlot gain	45	Carcass (characteristics)	
Birth weight	40	Carcass grade	40
Final feedlot weight	60	Fat thickness	45
Susceptibility to cancer eye	30	Loin-eye area	70

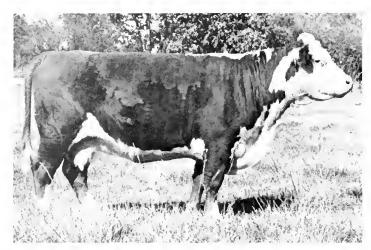
From this information, you can see that the major production factors emphasized in the performance testing program are medium to high in heritability.

PURPOSES OF THE ILLINOIS BPT PROGRAM

The primary purpose of this program is to provide information that will be valuable to cooperators in selecting and culling their cattle, and in improving the production of their cow herds. The program is not intended to encourage competition between herds, since conditions vary from farm to farm; but it will help develop standards for comparison if breeders are interested in doing so. Major emphasis is given to:

- 1. Beef cow performance, as evidenced by
 - a. Weaning weight of calves.
 - b. Evaluation scores at weaning.
- 2. Post-weaning performance of calves.
- 3. Carcass quality at slaughter.
- 4. Herd sire performance, as measured by the three standards just given.

All of the characteristics measured in the performance testing program are of medium or high heritability, as noted before. Real progress can be made in improving these if a good selection program is followed.



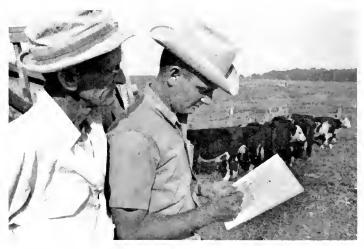
This is a highly productive, Polled Hereford cow. The five calves she has weaned in five years had an average 205-day adjusted weight of 631 pounds. The 365-day adjusted weights of her four sons averaged 1,079 pounds.

Performance records will not replace the good judgment cattle breeders have used in the past in selecting replacement cattle. However, such records will supply facts about weaning weights and gaining ability that should provide a better measure of productivity.

HOW THE PERFORMANCE TESTING PROGRAM OPERATES

Responsibilities of the Herd Owner

- 1. Contact your extension adviser at least a month before you plan to wean your calves in order to set up a date for weighing and evaluating them. Also, contact him several weeks before your post-weaning tests will be completed. All of the needed record forms can be obtained from the extension adviser's office.
- 2. Be sure the calves are at least 150 days of age but not more than 270 days old when they are weighed for their weaning record. This is necessary for calculating the official 205-day weight.
- 3. Make sure each cow, herd sire, and calf is identified by some positive means.
- 4. Keep an accurate calving record, including the calf's identification, birth date, dam, sire, and sex.
- 5. Weigh and evaluate all calves that are old enough, not just a few of the best ones.
- 6. Arrange for scales and facilities to weigh the cattle accurately.
- 7. Fill out the Calf Crop Record Work Sheet, the Post-Weaning Record Work Sheet, or both prior to the day the cattle are to be weighed. Complete all of the columns except those for the actual weight, evaluation scores, and grade. New cooperators who are filling out the Calf Crop Record Work Sheet for the first time should also leave blank the space marked "Herd Code."



The success of the BPT Program depends on good cooperation between extension advisers and herd owners. Here, an extension adviser is discussing the weights and the evaluation scores of calves with a herd owner.

- 8. Be certain that the cattle are at least 330 days of age and that they have been on test at least 140 days when the Post-Weaning Record is completed. This is required in order to calculate the official 365-day weight.
- 9. Pay the processing fee for each animal that is weighed and evaluated. Make checks payable to the University of Illinois.

Responsibilities of the County Extension Adviser

- 1. Keep a complete file and a good supply of BPT materials in the office, including copies of the current
 - Circular on the Illinois BPT Program.
 - Calf Crop Record Work Sheet.
 - Post-Weaning Record Work Sheet.
 - Weighing and Evaluation Work Sheet.
 - Outline of the Seven Body Types.
 - Carcass Ouality Work Sheet.
 - Individual Cow Performance Record.
 - Sire Evaluation Record.
 - Bull Code Number Record.
 - Cow Code Number Record.
- 2. Explain the program to prospective cooperators in the county, and help cooperators evaluate their records.
- 3. Arrange with the cooperator for a date on which to weigh his calves and/or yearlings. Make arrangements for a committee or an individual to do the official evaluation of the cattle.
- 4. Check the completed Calf Crop Record Work Sheets and the Post-Weaning Record Work Sheets to be sure all of the information needed is shown, then send these work sheets to the Livestock Extension Specialists' Office 326 Mumford Hall, Urbana 61801. Also, collect the processing fee and send it along

with the completed work sheets. As noted before, all checks must be made payable to the University of Illinois.

Responsibilities of the Area Livestock Adviser

1. Conduct meetings and conferences to acquaint breeders with the Illinois BPT Program and to help cooperators evaluate their records.

2. Help weigh and evaluate cattle and help assemble records. The latter is particularly useful to those whose herds are just starting in the program.

3.- Make summaries of records for your area when it seems useful to do so.

4. Keep a good supply of all record forms on hand.

Responsibilities of the State Livestock Specialists

1. Conduct meetings and conferences to acquaint breeders with the Illinois BPT Program and to help cooperators evaluate their records.

2. Help weigh and evaluate cattle, when possible; also, help assemble records.

3. Furnish the record forms and other BPT materials.

4. Update the Illinois BPT Program whenever necessary.

5. Supervise the record-processing at Urbana; also, see that the herd owner, county extension adviser, and area livestock adviser receive copies of the processed records.

6. Maintain a file containing a copy of the processed records of all of the cooperators in the Illinois Beef Performance Testing Program.

7. Make summaries of data on a routine basis.

8. Send a quarterly information letter about the program to each of the cooperating herd owners and to all appropriate Extension Service personnel.

Weaning-Time Phase

This is the first part of the Illinois BPT Program.

1. The herd owner needs to fill out the Calf Crop Record Work Sheet prior to the day the calves are to be weighed and evaluated. A sample of this form is shown on page 8. All columns except those for the actual weight, evaluation scores, and grade are to be completed.

2. At weaning, each calf must be weighed separately and the weight must be recorded on the Weighing and Evaluation Work Sheet. (See page 7.) We recommend weighing the calves at an average age of about seven months. No weight or weight-ratio calculations will be made for calves under 150 or over 270 days of age. This edit system is part of the computer program for processing the

weaning records. However, the information om the Calf Crop Record Work Sheet will be listed on the Processed Calf Crop Record for all calves outside the accepted age range. The calculated, 205-day weights on cattle outside the 150- to 270-day range generally will be less accurate than the 205-day weights calculated for calves inside this range.

3. The calves should be evaluated when they are weighed. Whenever possible, a three-man committee is used; otherwise, one person is acceptable. Each member of the committee records his evaluation scores on a separate Weighing and Evaluation Work Sheet. Major emphasis is given to the evaluation for body type and muscling. The evaluation of the calf's feeder grade is now an optional part of the BPT Program.

Body type score. This evaluation became part of the program as of September 1, 1971. The body type scores are made on a 1-through-7 basis (see page 4). These scores apply across the cattle industry, not just within each breed. As a general rule, most of the animals of the English breeds will be in the 1-to-5 range. For Charolais and other breeds of similar size, the scores will usually be from 3 to 7 (refer to page 4).

Muscle score. This evaluation was also added to the program as of September 1, 1971. The basis used is 1 through 7:

1 an exceptionally thin calf (a walking skeleton).

4 average muscling.5 heavy muscled.

2 very light muscled.

6 very heavy muscled.

3 light muscled.

7 double muscled.

Feeder calf grade. This is an optional part of the program now, as noted previously. The major emphasis is on body type and muscle evaluation. If grades are used, the cattle would be ranked as follows:

Feeder calf grades

Prime 17, 16, 15	Good11, 10, 9
Choice14, 13, 12	Standard 8, 7,6
Utility	5, 4, 3

If the cooperator does not want a feeder calf grade, a zero can be placed in the grade column; or this space can be used for something else, for example:

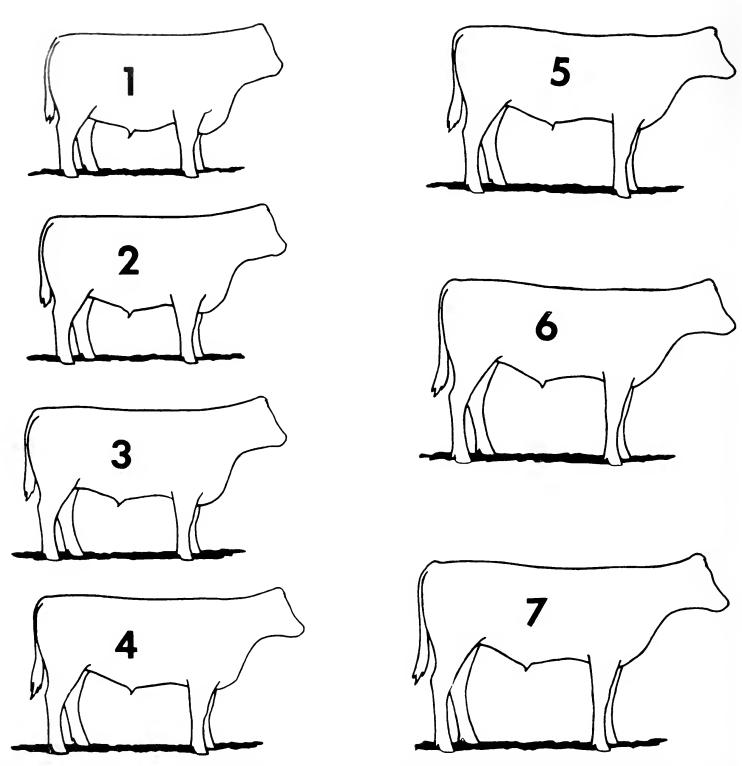
▲ An evaluation score for condition.

▲ An evaluation score for structural soundness.

▲ A code for calving difficulty.

▲ Some other item the herd owner might want to code in numerically.

4. The evaluation scores and the grades, if used, are averaged to the nearest whole number and then transferred to the Calf Crop Record Work Sheet, along with the weights. The extension adviser forwards these completed sheets to Urbana, along with the processing fee.



These outlines represent the seven body type scores being used in the Illinois Beef Performance Testing Program. They were developed at the University of Wisconsin to represent the range in body types of cattle involved in their body type research projects. In general, cattle of the English breeds will be covered by body types 1 through 5. The largest Charolais cattle or similar size cattle of other breeds will require the use of body types 6 and 7.

Post-Weaning Phase

During the second phase of the BPT Program, weaned calves should be group-fed for at least 140 days in order to test their ability to gain. They do not have to be full-fed, but all of the calves in a group should receive the same ration. Thus, a group of sale or replacement bulls would probably be fed a higher-

energy ration than the one given to a group of replacement heifers.

The test period starts on the date the weaning weights are obtained. The actual weaning weight is used as the initial weight on test. Using the weaning weight as the starting weight for this test period makes it possible to account for all periods in the animal's life up to the yearling weight.

Official 365-day weights or weight ratios are calculated only for animals that are at least 330 days of age and that have been on test at least 140 days. However, information from the Post-Weaning Record Work Sheet along with the average daily gain on test is listed on the Processed Post-Weaning Record for all animals that do not meet the previous requirements.

The herd owner should fill out the Post-Weaning Record Work Sheets prior to the day the cattle are to be weighed off-test and evaluated. All columns are to be completed except those for the off-test weight, evaluation scores, and grade.

At the end of the post-weaning feeding period, the cattle are to be weighed and evaluated. Again, the evaluation should be done by a committee of three when possible; however, using only one person is satisfactory.

After the evaluation scores and the grades, if used, have been averaged to the nearest whole number, transfer this information to the Post-Weaning Record Work Sheets along with the off-test weights. Your extension adviser will forward these completed work sheets to Urbana, along with your processing fee. Checks must be made payable to the University of Illinois.

Carcass Evaluation Phase

This is the third phase of the BPT Program. Weaning weights, evaluation scores, and post-weaning performance may all be satisfactory; but it is also important to know whether your herd can produce trim, meaty, high-grading carcasses at normal market weight. This represents another measure of herd performance. Carcass evaluation of the progeny is also a good measure of sire performance. We recommend using a progeny-testing program on the sire's first calf crop.

Select eight to twelve cattle for slaughter. The steers should weigh at least 975 pounds; the heifers, at least 875 pounds — with enough finish to grade Choice. The spread between the slaughter weights of a group of heifers or steers should be less than a hundred pounds. No more than half of the test group should be heifers. If the necessary number of cattle is not available in your bull's first calf crop, slaughter others from his second one. The simplest way to obtain complete and accurate carcass data is to make use of the federal grading service.

USDA BEEF CARCASS EVALUATION SERVICE. As a service to the livestock industry, the Livestock Division of the USDA's Consumer and Marketing Service has developed a program for certifying detailed carcass information from specific slaughter cattle. Many beef cattle producers, breed associations, agricultural exper-

iment stations, and others interested in the impresent of beef cattle have asked for this type of service

The USDA's new carcass evaluation service is based on positive identification of the live animal and of its carcass; therefore, this service is suitable for use in sire evaluation and in other performance testing programs. As part of the carcass evaluation service, USDA meat graders will provide any of the information called for on the Beef Carcass Evaluation Report (shown on page 6). When less-detailed information is requested, that may be furnished on a regular grading certificate.

How to apply. When a producer wants to use this service, he arranges to have his cattle slaughtered in a federally inspected packing plant, or in a plant inspected by the state that is approved to receive the federal meat-grading service. The producer obtains the packer's permission to have the carcass evaluated by a federal meat grader.

The producer and the packer decide which of them is to be billed for the cost of the evaluation service. Then, the producer requests the carcass evaluation service from the nearest field office of the USDA Meat Grading Branch. (See page 6.) When requesting the service, the producer tells the Meat Grading Branch office where the cattle are to be slaughtered, the factors he wishes to have certified, the number of animals involved, the date and the approximate time of slaughter, and who is to be billed for the service.

Identifying the cattle. The producer can identify his cattle by using metal or plastic ear tags, ear tattoos, back tags furnished by the Meat Grading Branch, or any similar identification system approved by the local meat grading supervisor. Positive identification of the carcass depends entirely on properly identifying the animal before it is slaughtered. This requires close cooperation among the packer, the producer, and the grader concerning the date and time of slaughter. The producer must attach identification tags securely, so they will not be lost while the cattle are being handled and shipped to the slaughtering plant. Back tags must be attached high on the right shoulder.

The Meat Grading Branch furnishes the producer with three copies of a form on which to list the identifying numbers for each animal. One copy is used as a check list at the time of slaughter, another copy is for the meat grader, and the remaining copy is returned to the producer with the official records.

Maintaining identity. In federally inspected packing plants, a federal meat inspector transfers the identity of the live animal to its carcass. In state-inspected plants, this may be done by a federal meat grader or by a meat inspector.

(3-1-66)	DEE! CAR		LUATION	KLIOI	()		ESTOCK D	KETING SERVI	
USDA NO.	OTHER IDENTIFICATI	ON	BREED (A	upplied by	owner)	۸	AEAT GRAI	DING CERTIFICAT	
NAME OF PRODUCER		 							
1					ING, AND MATURIT				
QUALITY GRADE	CONFORMATIC	ON DE	GREE OF MARBLI	4G	MATURITY (APPROXIMATE	AGE SHO	WN' (Cir.	cle one)	
QUALITI GRADE					A B		C_	D E	
BY THIRDS				(Un	der 30 moz.) (30 to 48	mos.)	(Ov	er 48 mos.)	
BT INIKUS			B. OTHER	FACTOR	S				
EXTURE OF MARBLING (Ch	eck one)								
		FINE	_ M	EDIUM	COARSE				
COLOR OF LEAN (Check or	ne)								
VERY LIGHT CHERRY RED	CHERRY RED	SLIGHTLY DARK RED	□ \(\text{\tin}\text{\tetx{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\ti}\\\ \text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\texi}\text{\text{\text{\text{\texi}\text{\text{\text{\texi}\text{\text{\texi}\text{\text{\texi}\text{\text{\texi}\text{\texi}\text{\texi}\text{\texi}\text{\texi}\text{\texi}\text{\texi}\text{\texi}\text{\texi}\text{\texi}\t	ODERATELY ARK RED	DARK RED	□ VE	RY ARK RED	BLACK	
FIRMNESS OF LEAN (Check	one)								
VERY FIRM	FIRM	MODERATE	LY S	LIGHTLY OFT	SOFT	U ve	RY SOFT	SOFT EXTREME	
TEXTURE OF LEAN (Check	one)								
VERY FINE	FINE	MODERATE		IGHTLY NE	SLIGHTLY COARSE	co	DARSE	VERY COARSE	
2				YIELD F	ACTORS				
YIELD GRADE	CARCASS WEIGHT (From packer's hot wt. tag)		CKNESS (Inches, 1/10 in.)		RIB EYE AREA (from G	rid)	KIDNEY, PELVIC ANI HEART FAT (As per- cent of corcoss wei		
	LB.	ACTUAL	IN. ADJUS	IN .	SQ.	IN.	E	P	

Evaluating and reporting. After the carcasses have been thoroughly chilled, the meat grader evaluates them for each of the factors requested by the producer, recording these data on the Beef Carcass Evaluation Report, or on another form used by the Meat Grading Branch if the complete service is not requested. Copies are furnished to the person requesting the service.

Cost. Charges for the carcass evaluation service are made at the regular rate for grading meat, plus any expenses incurred for travel or for transferring the identification of the live animal to the carcass.

USDA Meat Grading Service field offices. There is only one of these offices in Illinois. The address is Room 10, 536 South Clark Street, Chicago 60605—telephone 312/353-5751. Two other field offices are located at 800 South Chambers Street in Sioux City, Iowa 51107—telephone 712/252-0259; and at 760 Livestock Exchange Building, Kansas City Stockyards, Kansas City, Missouri 65102—telephone 816/374-5331.

CARCASS DATA SERVICE. The Livestock Division of the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service is developing a program known as the Carcass Data Service, which is currently a national pilot project. Under this program, the beef cattle owner who wants to ob-

tain carcass information would purchase specially designed and numbered ear tags. In federally inspected plants where meat grading service is available, the grader should automatically report carcass data on all cattle bearing these special tags. Owners would purchase the ear tags from an agency authorized to distribute them. This agency would maintain records to assure the return of the carcass data and the collection of the service charges.

Interested producers should contact one of the extension livestock specialists at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign for details about the program. The report to be issued by the Carcass Data Service is expected to include:

Slaughter date
Ear-tag number
Hot carcass weight
Conformation grade
Maturity
Degree of marbling
Quality grade

Fat thickness (in tenths of an inch)
Rib-eye area (in square inches)
Kidney, pelvic, and heart fat (percentage)
Yield grade

WORK SHEETS AND RECORD FORMS USED IN THE BPT PROGRAM

These are shown on the following pages. All of them can be obtained from the county extension adviser or the area livestock adviser.

WEIGHING AND EVALUATION WORK SHEET

wner		in Do				County		adams de Gree			
te		17-71				Grader	8	de Gree	n		
Grade Prime – 17, Choice – 14 Good – 11, Standard – Utility – 5,	16, 15 3, 13, 12 10, 9 8, 7, 6	1 = (ver 2 3 4 5	y short 8	& dumpy)		1 = exception 2 = very light 3 = light muse 4 = average m 5 = heavy muse 6 = very heavy 7 = double muse	muscled cled uscling scled y muscled	core (walking skele	ton)	1 = 1 2 =	code bull heifer steer
Calf no.	Sex code	Weight	Body type score	Muscling score	Grade	Calf no.	Sex code	Weight	Body type score	Muscling score	Grade
20	_ /	740	4	5	15	27	3	480	3	3	12
22	2	645	4	4	/4	28	2	400	2	5	14
24	2	540	3	5	15	21	3	575	3	4	14
29	2	450	4	6	/6	3/	2	450	3	5	15
25	/	570	3	4	14	30	3	485	4	44	14
26	/	580	4	5	15	32	3	420	3	4	13
								raluation sco -Weaning R			

CALF CROP RECORD WORK SHEET

county		ldar	ns		Breed	or bree	d cross	es		a	ngi	w					
erd code	C	0/-	0001		Month			<u>//</u> 8-9				Yea	ar		71		
0.	hu	1-7 مد(ک			R.R.	#1				lle)	Q.	llino	, 10-		666	4
$_2$ \mathcal{F}^{\prime}	Owner	Doe		Street or				200	Cit	y'	· ,	Sta	te			Zip C	
Calf	Sex	Sire	Dam	Age of	Breed of	Breed of	В	irth dat	e	Dat	te weigl	ned	Actual	Mgt.	Body	Muscling	
no. 12-16	code	no. 18-22	no. 23-27	dam 28-29	sire 30-31	dam 32-33	Mo. 34	Day	Yr. 39	Mo. 40	Day	Yr. 45	weight 46-49	code 50	score 51	score 52	Grad 53-5
20	/	/	10W	10	/	/	3	4	71		17		740	3	4	5	15
22	2	/	4	10		_	3	10	_				645		4	4	14
24	2	/	T3W	9	ļ. <u>.</u>		3	16					540		3	5	15
29	2	/	9	4			5	10			-		450		4	6	16
25	/	2	20	6			4	3					570		3	4	14
26	/	2	118	10			4	10					580		4	5	15
27	3	2	5	5			4	25					480		3	3	12
28	2	2	2	6			4	29					400		2	5	14
21	3		12	_//			3	8			ļ ļ		575		3	4	14
31	2	2	147	9			5	14					450		3	5	15
30	3	/	R15	10			5	10					485		4	4	14
32	3	2	A 8	4	\downarrow	1	5	26	\downarrow	1	\downarrow		420	\downarrow	3	4	13
											 						
	Th Ch	is form, ampaigr	when c	omplete	d, is	sent t	o the	UI l	Livest to pi	ock I	Extense the p	sion S proces	Specialist sed Calf	s at Crop	Urba Reco	na- ord.	
0 = No	croen	M	anagement	Code											Sex C		
		creep feed	ing and/or	grain fee	ding pri	or to w	eighing	,							2 = He 3 = St	eifer	

BULL CODE NUMBER RECORD

Code no.	Bull's name, tattoo, or registration number	Code no.	Bull's name, tattoo, or registration number
1		28	
2		29	
3		30	
4		31	
5		32	
6		33	
7		34	
8		35	
9		36	
10		37	
11		38	
12		39	
13		40	
14		41	
15		42	
16		43	
17		44	
18		45	
19		46	
20		47	
21		48	
22		49	
23	Use this sheet if you identify your	bulls by a name	e or number larger than five
24	places. The number in the box is to Work Sheet in the sire column. L	st your bulls or	this sheet and keep it with
25	your permanent herd records. Rep	ort each bull by	the same number each year.
26		53	
27		54	

COW CODE NUMBER RECORD

Cuas no.	Cow's name, tattoo, or registration number Code no. Cow's name, tattoo, or registration number	
1	28	
2	29	
3	30	
4	31	
5	32	
6	33	
7	34	
8		
	35	
9	36	
10	37	
11	38	
12	39	
13	40	
14	41	
15	42	
16	43	
17	44	
18	45	
19	46	
20	47	
21	48	
22	49	
23	Use this sheet if you identify your cows by a name or number larger than five	
24	places. The number in the box is the number you put under "dam" in the Calf Crop Record Work Sheet. List all your cows on this sheet and keep it with your perma-	
25	nent herd records. Be sure each cow is reported by the same number each year.	
26	53	
27	54	

POST-WEANING RECORD WORK SHEET Illinois Beef Performance Testing Program

Hard code	(-																
)	1-7	\ 0.				Month			\$ €				×	Year		$72_{10.11}$	
61	S	John Doner	Doe .			λ	R. R. #/ Street or Rural Route	#/	ى ئ		Soer.	eril.	E	, SE	State		99	66643 Zip Code 79
Calf no. 12-16	Sex code 17	Sire number 18-92	Breed of sire 23-24	Breed of dam 25-26	Mo. I	Birth date	× Yr. 32 W	Date on test Mo. Day Y 33	on test 39 Yr.	Σ ε	Day	<u>:</u> +	Weight on test 45-58	Weight off test	205-day wt., adj. for age of dam 53-56	Body type score	Muscling score 58	3 Grade 59-60
80	``	\	\ ·	\	ω	4	/ //	11 17	7 7	7	98	72	140	1,172	603	7	9	9/
25	\	8			4	<i>w</i>							570	462	519	ω	7	*/
26		7			*	0/							580	866	544	B	7	75
4	7	_			<i>w</i>	0/							645	606	537	7	*	4
7 4	7	_			₩ 	9/						٦)	240	820	797	ω	h	15
28	7	7			7	29						1	00%	009	40 t	~	7	2
59	2	_			7	0/						4.	450	754	502	4	9	9/
3/	~	7	\rightarrow	\rightarrow	7	7/	$\stackrel{\ \ \ }{\rightarrow}$		$\xrightarrow{-}$	\rightarrow	\rightarrow		450	069	78 7	3	6	1/2
																,		
			This for paign, It of the in The "on	This form, when completed, is sent to the UI Livestock Extension paign. It provides the information necessary to produce the processed of the information needed to complete this work sheet can be obtaine. The "on-test" weight is the actual weight at weaning time that appear	comples the in need in heed	leted, is iformated to compared to compare	s sent ion ne omple	to the cessal	UI Living to brown to	vestoc.	 	nsion (sessed btained	Specialis Post-W	sts at Ur 7eaning R :he Calf C	This form, when completed, is sent to the UI Livestock Extension Specialists at Urbana-Champaign. It provides the information necessary to produce the processed Post-Weaning Record. Most of the information needed to complete this work sheet can be obtained from the Calf Crop Record. The "on-test" weight is the actual weight at weaning time that appears on the Calf Crop Record.	- s t		

Calf Crop Record Work Sheet. Please follow the instructions given here carefully when you are filling out this form.

County, and breed or breed crosses. These must be written in.

Herd code. Be sure to list all seven numbers. If the herd is a new one in the Illinois BPT Program, leave this space blank; a herd code number will be assigned by the extension livestock specialists in Urbana.

Month and year. The information called for at the top of the sheet refers to the month and year in which the calves were weighed. Do not spell out the month; list it numerically — for example, 10 instead of October. For the year, list only the last two digits — 73 for 1973.

Address. This must be complete, including the Zip Code.

Calf, sire, and dam number. The maximum is five places. Within that maximum, any combination of numbers and letters can be used; or, five numbers or five letters.

Sex code. The code is 1 for a bull, 2 for a heifer, and 3 for a steer.

Age of dam at calving. This entry should be made as follows:

Two-year-olds, from one year and nine months to two years and nine months.

Three-year-olds, from two years and nine months to three years and nine months.

Four-year-olds, from three years and nine months to four years and nine months, and so on.

Breed of sire and breed of dam. Two places are allowed in each column. Animals that are seven-eighths or more of a particular breed should be listed as straightbred. These breed codes went into effect in the BPT Program on September 1, 1971:

1 Angus E Simmental 2 Hereford F Limousin 3 Polled Hereford G Murray Grey 4 Shorthorn H Galloway 5 Polled Shorthorn J Maine-Anjou 6 Charolais K Devon and South Devon 7 Red Angus 8 Red Poll 9 Brangus A Holstein B Brown Swiss

L Santa Gertrudis M Lincoln Red N Hays Converter P Chianina Q Flechvieh C Guernsey, Jersey, R Blonde d'Aquitaine or Ayrshire D Milking Shorthorn S Brahman

For example, you would put a "1" in the Breed of Sire column and a "1" in the Breed of Dam column if you have purebred Angus cattle. If you have crossbred cattle and used Simmental semen to breed Charolais-Angus (crossbred) females, put an "E" in the Breed of Sire column and a "61" in the Breed of Dam column. When the sire or dam is a crossbred, be sure to list the sire breed of the cross first. A "61" in the Breed of Dam column would mean that the dam was sired by a Charolais bull and was out of an Angus

Birth date. Show the month, day, and year. The entry for a calf born on March 10, 1972, would be "3-10-72."

Date weighed. Again, list the month, day, and year in digital form (same as for birth date). If all of the cattle were weighed on the same day, enter the date once. It is not necessary to repeat the date for each calf.

Actual weight. Give this figure as of the day indicated in the previous column.

Management code. For this, enter a zero for no creep-feeding and 1 through 7 to show the number of months of creep- and/or grain-feeding prior to weighing. Thus, for a calf that received creep feed for three months before being weaned and weighed, a "3" should be entered under Management Code. A "1" should be entered for a calf that had no creep feed before weaning, but was not weighed until a month after being weaned and received grain during that month. A "9" means the calf was on a nurse cow.

Evaluation scores and grade. The body type, muscling, and grade scores should be averaged to the nearest whole number. If the calves were not evaluated or graded, put a zero in the appropriate column or columns.

Calf Crop Record (page 13). This is the processed record you receive at weaning time. It is calculated from the information you have submitted on the Calf Crop Record Work Sheet.

Individual Cow Performance Record (page 14). This provides a lifetime performance record for each cow in the herd. The information on the Calf Crop Record is transferred by the herd owner to the Individual Cow Performance Record sheet. After a herd has been on test for a few years, a study of these record sheets will show which cows are consistently among the top performers in the herd. NOTE: This form is available free at your county extension office.

Post-Weaning Record (page 15). It shows the performance data on your cattle from weaning time until approximately one year of age. This record is very useful in selecting bulls and heifers for herd replacements and for sale. Remember that the yearling weight has a high heritability. The entries made on this record are calculated from the information you submit on the Post-Weaning Record Work Sheet.

ILLINOIS BEEF PERFORMANCE TESTING PROGRAM

CALF CROP RECORD
COUNTY Adams

Doeville, Ill. 66643

R.R. 1

John Doe

HERD CODE NO. 001-0001

	I ~ I		A riotans Switz C Cuerniary, Jersey or Ayrshire C Milking Shorthorn E Simmental F Limousin Murray Grey		P Chianina Q Flechvieh R Blande d'Aquitoine SEX CODE	1. Bull 2. Heifer 3. Sieer	MANAGEMENT CODE	1.7 — No creep 1.7 — Months of creep feed 1.7 — Months of grain feeding prior to weighing 9 — Nurse cow
GRADE	15 14 15	16 14 14	14.7	14 15 14	15 12 13	13.8		
BODY MUSCLE SCORE SCORE	242	9 4 4	7 4.7	4 2 3	284	3.04.3		
MGT B	8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8	888 484	က်	842	m m m	m m	_	1
205 DAY ADJUSTED WEIGHT RATIO	113 111 95	104 99 101	104	97 3 102 3 83 3	100 94 3 99 3	96 100		
205 DAY ADJUSTED WEIGHT	573 563 485	527 502 515	528	493 51 <i>7</i> 424	510 478 504	488 508		
205 DAY WEIGHT RATIO WITHIN SEX	109 112 97	105 100 103	104	94 98 85	102 96 101	96 100		om- am- the iser. will fice.
20S DAY WEIGHT ADJUSTED FOR AGE OF DAM	603 537 462	502 502 515	520	519 544 404	486 478 504	489		prepared by comat Urbana-Chamherd owner, the ivestock Adviser. esired, a copy will association office.
ADJUSTED 205 DAY WEIGHT	603 537 462	478 478 515	512	519 544 404	486 478 480	485		prepar at Urb herd jivestoo lesired, associz
ACTUAL	740 645 540	450 575 485	573	570 580 400	450 480 420	483 528		cord is Illinois to the Area I ma. If c
DAYS AGE	258 252 246	191 254 191	232	228 221 202	187 206 175	203 218		rop Re ty of I sailed the the tr Urba
DATE WEIGHED MO. DAY YR.	11-17-71 11-17-71 11-17-71	11-17-71 11-17-71 11-17-71	sire	11-17-71 11-17-71 11-17-71	11-17-71 11-17-71 11-17-71	sire herd		The processed Calf Crop Record is prepared by computer at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Copies are mailed to the herd owner, the Extension Adviser, and the Area Livestock Adviser. Another copy is filed at Urbana. If desired, a copy will also be sent to your national breed association office.
BIRTH DATE MO. DAY YR.	03-04-71 03-10-71 03-16-71	05-10-71 03-08-71 05-10-71	Average by	04-03-71 04-10-71 04-29-71	05-14-71 04-25-71 05-26-71	Average by Average by		The proces puter at the paign. Cop Extension Another cogalso be sen
BREED OF DAM					·			
BREED OF SIRE					ннн			
AGE OF DAM	10 10 9	4 11 10		6 10 6	674			
DAM	10W 4 T3W	9 12 R15		20 11R 2	14T 5 A8			
SIRE		ннн		222	222			
SEX	22	288		7 7 7	0 m m			
CALF	20 22 24	29 21 30		25 26 28	31 27 32			

INDIVIDUAL COW PERFORMANCE RECORD

Illinois Beef Performance Testing Program

	onths	Grade	15
3-10-65	Age at first calving 25 Months	Muscling	8
Birth date	Age at first calv	Body type score	+
		365-day adj. wt. ratio	0//
4032	19-01-4	365-day adj. wt.	800
Herd or tattoo number 4032	Date at first calving	Grade	#/
	Date at 1	Muscling score	*
Juen.	79	Body type score	*
Illmomere queen 2	Dam	205-day adj. wt. ratio	105
Name Sl	Sire	205-day adj. wt.	240

Remarks

Calving Record

5 15	5 15	•	5 15	5 //6	5 15	1		_
	7	3	ω	<i>'</i> 2:	#		cord nerd.	
ratio	102	103	101	120	011		The information on this form is filled in by the herd owner, from the processed Calf Crop Record and the Post-Weaning Record. An up-to-date record should be kept on each cow in the herd.	
365-day adj. wt.	1,010	890	190	1,125	810		processed C t on each c	
Grade	#/	15	#/	9/	15		; from the uld be kep	
ing score	*	3	7	5	5		rd owner	
type	ω	3	*	42	7		n by the he- to-date re	
adj. wt. ratio	901	0//	112	111	70/	1	n is filled ii ord. An up	
205-day adj. wt.	565	550	554	590	545	1	on this form	
Sire no.	#08	_	_	RA	RA		nformation ne Post-W	
Birth	1-4	3-19	3-16	3-10	3-24		The ii and the	
Sex	_	ω	3	_	7	t		
Calf no.	#/	42	75	011	145			
Year	19	89	69	70	11		1	

Sex code: 1 = bull, 2 = heifer, 3 = steer.

ILLINOIS BEEF PERFORMANCE **TESTING PROGRAM**

HERD CODE NO. 001-0001

POST-WEANING RECORD

COUNTY

Adams

John Doe

R.R. 1 Doeville, Ill. 6643

	- 2 2	4 4 4 4 4	9 Boongus A Holten C Guernsy, Jersey. or Ayrahre D Milling Shorthorn F Summerial	_ O ± ¬ × ¬ ₹ Z a O ∝	SEX CODE 1 Bull 2 Heler 3 Steer	
GRADE	16.0 16.0	15 14.5 15.0	15 15 16 15.3	14 15.0 15.0		
MUSCLE	5.0 4	5 4.5 4.7	5.3	5 5.0 5.2		i
BOOY IYPE SCORE	3.0	3.3	3.7	3.53		•
ADJUSTED WEIGHT RATIO WITHIN SEX	107 107 94	99 97 100	106 102 106 106	87 99 93 100		
365 DAY ADJUSTED WEIGHT	1,035 1,035 911	962 937 969	777 742 774 764	636 726 681 731		to a
WEIGHT WEIGHT ADJUSTED FOR AGE OF DAM	603 603 519	544 532 555	537 462 502 500	404 486 445 478		:e ರೆ ರೆ :e ರೆ ರೆ
AVERAGE DAILY GAIN ON TEST	2.70 2.70 2.45	2.61 2.53 2.59	1.50 1.75 1.70 1.65	1.45 1.50 1.48 1.58		nputer opies a the Ar f desire on offic
AGE OFF TEST	418 418 388	381 385 396	412 406 351 390	362 347 355 376		y cor n. Cc and na. H
WEIGHT OFF TEST	1,172 1,172 962	998 980 1,044	885 820 722 809	632 690 661 750	1	pared b ampaigr dviser, t Urbai eed asse
WEIGHT ON TEST	740 740 570	580 575 630	645 540 450 545	400 450 425 497		l is preuna-Chansion Ausion Affled a onal br
DAYS ON TEST	160 160 160	160 160 160	160 160 160 160	160 160 160 160		ecord Urba Exter py is natio
DATE OFF TEST MO. DAY YR.	04-25-72	04-25-72	04-25-72 04-25-72 04-25-72	04-25-72 04-25-72		-Weaning Record is prepared by computer at Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Copies are owner, the Extension Adviser, and the Area Another copy is filed at Urbana. If desired, sent to your national breed association office.
DATE ON TEST MO. DAY YR.	11-17-71 thin sex 11-17-71	11-17-71 thin sex	11-17-71 11-17-71 11-17-71 thin sex	11-17-71 11-17-71 thin sex	,	The processed Post-Weaning Record is prepared by computer at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Copies are mailed to the herd owner, the Extension Adviser, and the Area Livestock Adviser. Another copy is filed at Urbana. If desired, a copy will also be sent to your national breed association office.
BIRTH DATE MO. DAY YR.	1 1 03-04-71 Average by sire wit 1 1 04-03-71	1 1 04-10-71 11- Average by sire within Average by sex	03-10-71 11-17- 03-16-71 11-17- 05-10-71 11-17- by sire within sex	04-29-71 11- 05-14-71 11- by sire within by sex		The pr the U mailed Liveste a copy
BREED OF DAM	1 rage	1 rage rage	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 Average	1 1 1 1 Average Average		
BREED OF SIRE	1 Ave 1	1 Ave Ave	1 1 Ave	1 Ave Ave		
SIRE NUMBER	1 2	2		22		
SEX		-	222	~ ~ ~		
CALF	20	56	22 24 29	31		i

SIRE EVALUATION RECORD

Illinois Beef Performance Testing Program

	27-67	Grade	15
	Birth date 2-27-67	Muscling	4
	Birth d	Body type score	*
		365-day adj. wt. ratio	601
		365-day adj. wt.	1,090
20495	Illinomere 22	Av. daily gain on test	3.00
Herd or tattoo number	Slein	No. of days on test	041
Herd or	Dam	Grade	15
m		Muscling score	6
rogress	sive	Body type score	*
nois Progressive	Mr. Progressive	205-day wt. ratio within sex	5//
See		205-day wt., adj. for age of dam	019
Name	Sire	205- ad age	9

Remarks

Performance of Progeny

5 500 102 3 3.4 4.8 14.4 1 1 2.80 1,030 102 4 5 15 495 103 2 3.5 4.7 14.3 4 1 3.00 1,040 104 3.7 5.0 4 5 105 3 3.5 4.8 14.5 7 1 2.90 1,045 104 3.8 4.5 2 510 105 3 3.5 4.8 14.5 7 1 2.90 1,035 104 3.6 4.9 The information on this form is filled in by the herd owner, from the processed Calf Crop Record and the Post-Weaning Record. An up-to-date record should be kept on each bull in the herd.	Year	No. of calves	Av. 205- day adj. weight	Av. 205- day adj. wt. ratio	Mgt. code	Av. body type score	Av. muscling score	Av. grade	No. of yearlings	Sex	Av. daily gain on test	Av. 365- day adj. weight	Av. 365- day adj. wt. ratio	Av. body type score	Av. muscling score	Av. grade
15 495 103 2 3.5 4.7 14.3 4 1 3.00 1,040 104 3.7 5.0 15 495 103 2 3.5 4.7 14.3 4 1 3.00 1,040 104 3.7 5.0 15 510 105 3 3.5 4.8 14.5 7 1 2.90 1,035 104 3.6 4.9 16 2 1.55 715 103 3.5 4.7 The information on this form is filled in by the herd owner, from the processed Calf Crop Record and the Post-Weaning Record. An up-to-date record should be kept on each bull in the herd.	69			102	W	3.4	4.8	14:4/	,	\	2.80	1,030	102	7	S	15
103 2 3.5 4.7 14.3 4 1 3.00 1,040 104 3.7 5.0 105 3 3.5 4.8 14.5 7 1 2.90 1,035 104 3.6 4.9 105 3 3.5 4.8 14.5 7 1 2.90 1,035 104 3.6 4.9 The information on this form is filled in by the herd owner, from the processed Calf Crop Record and the Post-Weaning Record. An up-to-date record should be kept on each bull in the herd.									7	8	1.50	700	107	3.5	4.5	14.5
3 3.5 4.8 14.5 7 1 2.90 1,035 104 3.6 4.9 6 2 1.55 715 103 3.5 4.7 6 3 2.4 886 105 3.5 4.6 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 1	20		495	103	7	3.5	4.7	14.3	4	_	3.00	1,040	701	6.7		8.41
105 3 4.8 14.5 7 1 2.90 1,035 104 3.6 4.9 6 2 1.55 715 103 3.5 4.7 6 3 1.55 715 103 3.5 4.7 7 105 3 3.4 886 105 3.5 4.6 8 105 3 3.4 886 105 3.5 4.6 9 105 3 3.4 886 105 3.5 4.6 105 3 3.4 886 105 3.5 4.6 105 3 3.4 886 105 3.5 4.6 105 3 3.5 4.6 6 3.5 4.6 105 3 3.5 4.6 6 3.5 4.6 105 4 886 105 3.5 4.6 6 105 5 4.6 6 4.6 6 4.6 6 4.6 6 105 5 4				+					7	7	1.65	725	102	3.3	4.5	14.3
6 2 1.55 715 103 3.5 4.7 6 3 2.4 886 105 3.5 4.6 filled in by the herd owner, from the processed Calf Crop Record An up-to-date record should be kept on each bull in the herd.	1	25	210	105	W		8.4	14.5	~	_	2.90	1,035	104	3.6	4.9	14.7
filled in by the herd owner, from the processed Calf Crop Record An up-to-date record should be kept on each bull in the herd.				1					9	8	1.55		103	2.	4.7	14.5
The information on this form is filled in by the herd owner, from the processed Calf Crop Record and the Post-Weaning Record. An up-to-date record should be kept on each bull in the herd.		,							9	3	2.4	988	103	5.5	4.6	14.5
and the Post-Weaning Record. An up-to-date record should be kept on each bull in the herd.				The inf	ormati	on on thi	s form is f	lled in by	, the herd		from the	Drocessed O	alf Cron R			
				and the	Post-	Weaning	Record.	An up-to-	date recor	ods b	uld be kep	t on each l	oull in the	herd.		

Sex code: 1 = bull, 2 = heifer, 3 = steer.

CARCASS QUALITY WORK SHEET

erd code number		Name John Doe	
\mathcal{R} , \mathcal{R} , \mathcal{L} / \mathcal{L} or Rural Route	eville,		6 6 6 <u>4</u> 4. Zip Coo
1. Animal number	30		
2. Slaughter tag number	/		
3. Slaughter weight	1,040		
4. Hot carcass weight	650		
5. Dressing percentage	62.5		
6. Fat thickness (in.)	.5		
7. Fat thickness per 100 lb. of carcass (in.)	.077		
8. Rib-eye area (sq. in.)	/3.5		
9. Rib-eye area per 100 lb. of carcass (sq. in.)	2.08		
10. Conformation	C+	_ + +	
11. Maturity	A		
12. Marbling	Modest		
13. Quality grade	C°		
14. Kidney, heart, pelvic fat (%)	3.0	- + + +	
15. Estimated yield grade	2.5		†
16. Slaughter date	7-3-72		
17. Birth date	5-10-71		,
18. Age at slaughter (days)	420	+ +	
19. Lb. carcass per day of age	1.55	+ +	
20. 205-day adj. weight	515	4	
21. 365-day adj. weight	915	This is the form to use when you war formance records and official carcas	ss evaluation data or
22. Sire number	2	slaughtered animals, as well as make a	durtional calculations
23. Dam number	R15		

Sire Evaluation Record (page 16). If kept up-to-date this form will show a lifetime record for each built in the herd. That information will be useful in imparing the weaning and post-weaning records of the progeny from each bull in the herd. NOTE: This form is available free at your county extension office.

Carcass Quality Record (page 17). The herd owner can transfer the official carcass evaluation data to this form, so that additional calculations can be made. The Carcass Quality Record is a valuable supplement to the Calf Crop Record and the Post-Weaning Record. NOTE: This form is available free at your county extension office.

HOW WEIGHTS AND WEIGHT RATIOS ARE CALCULATED

Calf Crop Record. The computer program for processing the weaning records adjusts the weaning weight for the age of the calf, the age of the dam, and the sex of the calf. The 205-day age basis and the adjustment factors used are those recommended by the National Beef Improvement Federation. These have been adopted by most states and breed associations.

Age of calf. The weights of all calves are adjusted to a 205-day age basis by figuring an average daily gain from birth to the date on which the calves are weighed. The average daily gain equals the actual weight, minus 70 pounds (the assumed birth weight), divided by the age of the calf (in days) when it is weighed. The 205-day weight equals the average daily gain from birth, times 205, plus 70 pounds (the assumed birth weight).

Age of dam. All calves are adjusted to a mature dam this way:

Two-year-olds, 205-day weight times 1.15 Three-year-olds, 205-day weight times 1.10 Four-year-olds, 205-day weight times 1.05 Five- to ten-year-olds, no adjustment Eleven-year-olds and up, 205-day weight times 1.05.

Sex of calf. The weights of all calves are adjusted to a steer-calf basis by adding 5 percent to the weight of a heifer calf and subtracting 5 percent from the weight of a bull calf.

205-day weight ratio within sex. The weight ratios are simple percentages. In this column on the herd owner's records, the 205-day weight of each calf (adjusted for age of dam) is compared with the average 205-day weight (also adjusted for age of dam) for all of the calves of its sex in the herd. In other words, the weight of each heifer calf is compared to the average weight of all heifer calves in the herd. The same is true for the bull calves and for the steer calves. This

comparison provides the herd owner with an automatic way of evaluating his calves on a weight basis. Calves with a weight ratio of less than 100 would be below average for that herd; those with a ratio of more than 100, above average. If a heifer calf in your herd has an 83 in this column, her 205-day weight (adjusted for age of dam) is 17 percent (100 minus 83) below the average weight for all of the heifers in the herd. Similarly, a heifer with a weight ratio of 125 would be 25 percent above that same average.

205-day adjusted weight ratio. This, too, is a percentage figure, but the sex factor has been eliminated; all calves have been adjusted to a steer basis in calculating the 205-day adjusted weight. Therefore, all calves can be compared equally, regardless of sex. This also allows the herd owner to compare each cow's production with the herd average. For example, a "75" in this column would mean that this calf's 205-day adjusted weight was 25 percent below the average of all calves in the herd; also, that the production of this calf's mother was 25 percent below that of the average for the herd. Anything above 100 in this column would indicate that those cows and their calves are above the average in the herd.

To compare the weight of a particular calf with the others of its sex in the herd, use the 205-day weight ratio within sex. Use the 205-day adjusted weight ratio to evaluate the production of an individual cow.

Post-Weaning Record.

365-day adjusted weight. Since the age of the dam has about the same effect on the weight at one year as on the weaning weight, the correction for the age of the dam is included in the 365-day adjusted weight. The formula is: 205-day weight, adjusted for age of dam, + (average daily gain on test \times 160).

365-day adjusted weight ratio within sex. This is also a percentage figure, calculated in the same manner as the 205-day weight ratio within sex. The 365-day adjusted weight of each animal is compared with the average 365-day adjusted weight for all the animals of that sex included on the record forms. This means that the 365-day adjusted weight for each bull is compared to the average 365-day weight of all bulls on test at the same time in a given herd; the same, for heifers and steers.

550-day adjusted weight. Some cooperators in the Illinois BPT Program like to obtain these weights (ones at approximately eighteen months) for their cattle, especially replacement heifers. In order to do this, the final weight needs to be taken at 500 days of age or after, but not before that time. The 550-day adjusted weight can be calculated in two ways:

actual final wt. — actual weaning wt. \times 345 + 205-no. of days between weights day wt. adj. for age of dam

actual final wt. — weight off-test \times 185 + 365-day no. of days between weights adj. wt.

NOTE: The weight off-test is shown on the Post-Weaning Record.

HOW TO MAKE GOOD USE OF YOUR RECORDS

- 1. Build up a history of production on each cow in the herd. You may know which cow is the best one in your herd and which is the poorest one. But do you know what cows are in the top half and in the bottom half? Use your BPT records to:
- a. Cull your herd. Even culling first-calf heifers on the basis of that one calf is an economically sound practice.
- b. Make a list of potential herd replacements from the calves with the heaviest weaning weights and the highest evaluation scores.
- 2. Pick calves for replacements that gain the fastest after weaning and have the heaviest weight at one year, checking the frame to make sure it is adequate for continued growth.
- 3. Look over the weaning weights, evaluation scores, post-weaning gains, and carcass quality of the calves sired by different bulls (if you use more than one).
- 4. Be prepared to supply performance records. You will find that more and more producers want cattle with such records. Good records make cattle more valuable to some people.

GUIDELINES FOR SELECTING A HERD SIRE

One of the most important management decisions a herd owner makes is the selection of a herd sire. Careful thought and planning are required. Many herd owners still fail to realize the value of a good bull. Select a bull that will be an asset to the he. one that will contribute to herd improvement. Before starting out to buy a new herd sire, take some time to evaluate your cow herd and current calf crop. Where do they need improvement the most? Is it in muscling, soundness, size, gaining ability, ruggedness, or some other trait?

Next, decide what herds you plan to visit or which sales you want to attend. Buy from reputable breeders who are known to be doing a good job of production and who will supply a breeder's guarantee with the animals they sell. Patronize those who are cattle breeders in the truest sense, ones who are making real progress in improving the quality and performance of their own cattle.

Take your time in making a selection. Start out well before the time you will need a bull. The earlier you start, the greater the number of bulls from which you can make your selection. Be sure that the bull you choose is:

- Large-framed, with plenty of size for his age.
- Structurally correct, including the feet and the legs.
- Performance-tested, with a good 205-day weight (adjusted for age of dam) and a good 365-day adjusted weight.
- · Well-muscled.
- From a cow that consistently ranks in the top half of the herd in terms of production.
- From a sire that has been doing a good job of settling cows and of siring large-framed, fast-gaining calves.
- Normal in testicular development meaning that both testicles are present and that they are fully descended, sound, and approximately equal in size
- Free of reproductive diseases, as determined by blood tests and verified by health papers.

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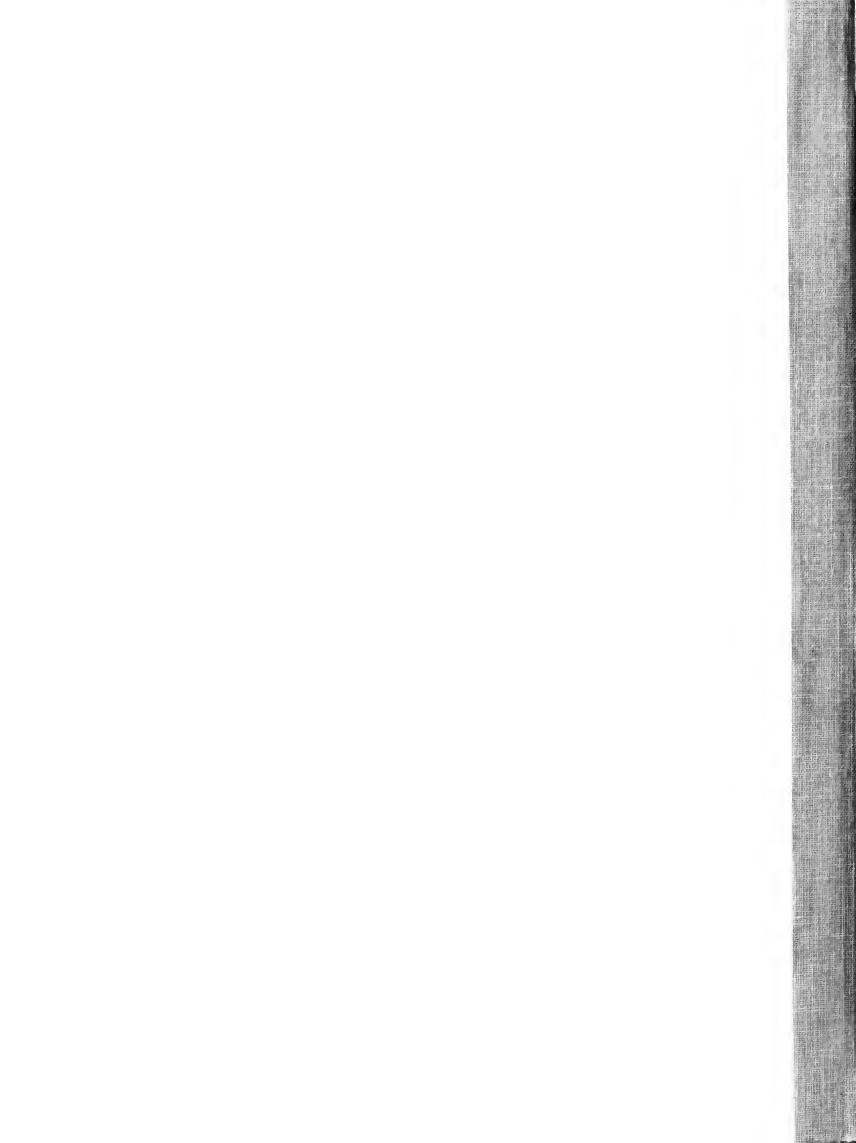
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Example: To find the number of days between March 12 and September 19, enter the table on the twelfth row under the column headed "March" and read the number 469; 660 minus 469 equals 191, the desired number of days. Be sure to add an extra day if leap year is involved.



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